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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,629	10/18/2001	Kenneth F. Buechler	071949-1315	8727
30542	7590	03/29/2004		
FOLEY & LARDNER			EXAMINER	
P.O. BOX 80278				ALEXANDER, LYLE
SAN DIEGO, CA 92138-0278			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1743	

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/982,629	BUECHLER, KENNETH F.	
	Examiner Lyle A Alexander	Art Unit 1743	
<i>--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--</i>			
<p>THE REPLY FILED 01 March 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may <u>only</u> be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.</p>			
<u>PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]</u>			
<p>a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The period for reply expires <u>3</u> months from the mailing date of the final rejection.</p> <p>b) <input type="checkbox"/> The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.</p> <p>ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).</p>			
<p>Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</p>			
<p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:</p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);</p> <p>(b) <input type="checkbox"/> they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);</p> <p>(c) <input type="checkbox"/> they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or</p> <p>(d) <input type="checkbox"/> they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.</p>			
<p>NOTE: _____</p>			
<p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).</p> <p>5. <input type="checkbox"/> The a)<input type="checkbox"/> affidavit, b)<input type="checkbox"/> exhibit, or c)<input type="checkbox"/> request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.</p> <p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.</p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a)<input type="checkbox"/> will not be entered or b)<input type="checkbox"/> will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.</p>			
<p>The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:</p> <p>Claim(s) allowed: <u>none</u>.</p> <p>Claim(s) objected to: <u>none</u>.</p> <p>Claim(s) rejected: <u>1-18</u>.</p> <p>Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.</p>			
<p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing correction filed on _____ is a)<input type="checkbox"/> approved or b)<input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner.</p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.</p> <p>10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>See Continuation Sheet</u></p>			
 Lyle A Alexander Primary Examiner Art Unit: 1743			

Continuation of 10. Other: Applicants state Kuhn et al. fail to teach capillary force moving the fluid sample. Kuhn et al. teach in column 3 lines 14+ wicking characteristics that have been read on the claimed capillary action. Further, column 4 lines 31 specifically teach capillary action.

Applicants state Kuhn et al. fail to teach a hydrophilic region adjacent to a hydrophobic region. Column 4 lines 40+ teach impermeable area which has been read on the claimed hydrophobic region that is adjacent to a hydrophilic region (see claims 1 and 4).

Applicants state the rejection of record fails to address the limitations of claims 2-3,6 and 12. The Office maintains Kuhn et al. teach an indistinguishable structure from that claimed (e.g. hydrophilic zones adjacent to hydrophobic zones) and inherently meet these limitations. .